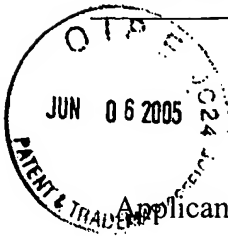


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant : Samuel M. Shaolian et al.
App. No : 10/642,399
Filed : August 15, 2003
For : ARTICULATING SPINAL FIXATION
ROD AND SYSTEM
Examiner : Eduardo C. Robert
Art Unit : 3732

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

6-2-05

(Date)

Rabinder N. Narula, Reg. No. 53,371

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is an Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (PTO/SB/08 equivalent) listing 2 references to be considered by the Examiner. Also enclosed is 1 foreign patent references and/or non-patent literature as listed on the Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a final action and before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 30 days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Thus, no fee is required as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated:

6-2-05

By:

Rabinder N. Narula
Registration No. 53,371
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Application No.	10/642,399
Filing Date	August 15, 2003
First Named Inventor	Samuel M. Shaolian
Art Unit	3732
Examiner	Eduardo C. Robert
Attorney Docket No.	VLINK.033A

(Multiple sheets used when necessary)

SHEET 1 OF 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	6,162,223	12/19/00	Orsak et al.	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹
	2	International Search Report for Application No. PCT/US04/26112 (the PCT counterpart of the parent application).	

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Examiner Signature

Date Considered

***Examiner:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.